



BUFFALO PUBLIC SCHOOLS
Department of Multilingual Education
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Dear Parent or Guardian:

The Buffalo Public Schools' Department of Multilingual Education is about to launch an exciting initiative that will enhance the learning experience of its students this year and for years to come. We have been selected by the New York State Education Department to participate in a New York State Seal of Biliteracy Implementation and Design Pilot Program for the 2014 - 2015 school year. The State Seal of Biliteracy was passed by the legislature and signed into law by Governor Cuomo on July 31, 2012. It was established to recognize high school graduates who have attained a high level of proficiency in listening, speaking, reading and writing in English and one or more languages.

We see this as a prime opportunity to capitalize on the rich diversity in our district and highlight the achievements of our multilingual student population. In addition, as members of a global community it is a way of motivating our English speaking students to learn another language. Through bilingualism and biliteracy, all our students will be better prepared to meet the challenges of the Common Core and be better prepared for college, career, and their future. The following schools will participate in the pilot this year: City Honors School, Frederick Law Olmsted School at Kensington, Hutchinson Central Technical High School and Lafayette High School.

You and your child are invited to join us for an informational meeting regarding the New York State Seal of Biliteracy Pilot at your child's school on the date and times listed below:

School	Date	Times	Address
City Honors School at Fosdick Masten Park	October 21, 2014	9:00 am 1:00 pm 6:00 pm	186 E. North Street
Fredrick Law Olmsted School at Kensington	October 16, 2014	9:00 am 1:00 pm 6:00 pm	319 Suffolk Avenue
Hutchinson Central Technical High School	October 27, 2014	9:00 am 1:00 pm	256 S. Elmwood Avenue
Lafayette High School Translators will be available	October 28, 2014	9:00 am 1:00 pm 5:45 pm	370 Lafayette Avenue

In the event that you are unable to join us but still would like to participate and receive information about the pilot you may attend a meeting held at one of the other school sites or communicate your intention to the NYS Seal of Biliteracy liaison at your child's school. Below you will find a list of liaisons from participating schools:

School	Liaison	Phone Number
City Honors School at Fosdick Masten Park	Mrs. Alicia Barinas	816 - 4230
Fredrick Law Olmsted School at Kensington	Mrs. Jessica Folckemer	816 - 4330
Hutchinson Central Technical High School	Dr. Gabrielle Morquecho	816 - 3888
Lafayette High School	Ms. Jessica Gilmartin	816 - 4340

Best wishes,

Dr. Tamara O. Alsace, PhD.

...Putting children and families first to ensure high academic achievement for all...